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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,565	01/11/2001	Kazuaki Kinjyou	Q62622	8323

7590 09/17/2002

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

PHAM, HAI CHI

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 09/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/757,565	KINJYOU ET AL.
	Examiner Hai C Pham	Art Unit 2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 15 July 2002 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 07/15/02. These drawings are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in–
 - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
 - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hagiwara (U.S. 6,297,871 B1).

Hagiwara discloses an exposure apparatus for making semiconductor circuits by photolithography or for exposing a photosensitive material. The exposure apparatus comprises a medium fixing member (stage 22, Fig. 8) for fixing a recording medium (W) on its surface, a recorder (30) for producing a record on said recording medium, an air supply (blower 9) for supplying air into the apparatus to build up positive pressure in its interior (the chamber 3, which encloses the exposure unit, is kept under positive

pressure through the air supply by the blower 9) (col. 9, lines 11-17), a heater (8), and a cooler (7) so that the temperature is kept constant (col. 9, lines 29-47). With regard to claim 2, Hagiwara further teaches the heater and the cooler being located upstream of an air supply port (Fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagiwara in view of Sarda (U.S. 4,414,913).

Hagiwara discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the humidifier located in the feeding path, the humidifier being configured as a water-retaining roller.

However, Sarda discloses a thermo-engraving machine, which receives the freshly printed sheet from the printer, and submits the printed sheet to a heater and a humidifier, both of which are located in the feeding path (feed conveyor assembly 15) of the printed sheet. The humidifier includes a tank of liquid, such as water, which is transferred to the printed sheet via the conveyor assembly with a system of rollers (col. 3, lines 26-29).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Hagiwara with the aforementioned teaching of Sarda for the purpose of providing an adequate treatment of the printed sheet.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior arts made of record discloses the combined claimed features related to a recording apparatus, which comprises a medium fixing member for fixing a recording medium on its surface, a recorder for producing a record on said recording medium, an air supply for supplying air into the apparatus to build up positive pressure in its interior, and at least a humidifier located in the feed path of the recording medium. The recording apparatus further includes a humidifying chamber and a humidifying air supply for supplying air to the humidifying chamber, and the humidifier consists of a water-retaining material, which is imbibed with water, and which is located between the humidifying chamber and the humidifying air supply. It is the combination of the above limitations, which is not taught or suggested by the prior arts of record, that makes the claims allowable.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, and 5 have been considered, and are traversed in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1281. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John S. Hilten can be reached on (703) 308-0719. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Hai C Pham

**HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

September 12, 2002